

The “Connecticut Initiative”

A Cabinet Workgroup

The Camden Coalition, in brief (more info at camdenhealth.org):

- **A small group of patients in Camden, NJ were consuming a disproportionate amount of care.** Overall, 90% of costs were incurred by 20% of patients. The top 1% of patients, about 1,000 persons, made about 40,000 ED visits over 5 years, incurring total medical care charges of \$375 million. Camden is one of the poorest cities in the U.S., with 95% of patients eligible for Medicaid.
- The initiative, conceived of as “**a medical home without walls,**” was established so that providers could reach patients in their homes, shelters, and even on the streets. Care is coordinated by a local management team of nurse practitioners, social workers, and community health workers, along with a care management committee.
- The project is built on the **Camden Health Database**, a citywide database with seven years of patient-level claims data that is used to target interventions and to evaluate the program’s impact.
- There is **evidence that the project has reduced costs and the number of ED visits.** Among the program pilot’s initial 36 “super users”, the initiative reduced monthly spending by 56% (from \$1.2 million to about \$530,000) and reduced hospital and ED visits by 40% (from 61.6 visits per month to 37.2 visits per month). The program cost \$150,000 for the first year.
- Subsequently, **companion programs have been established** for coordinated care of city resident with diabetes; for hospital-based violence intervention; and for low-cost or free prescription medications.